



# First Minister's Reading Challenge Advisory Group

## Minutes

30 January 2018

10.00am – 12.00pm

Scottish Book Trust, Sandeman House, Trunk's Close, 55 High Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1SR

### Present:

Caitlyn Bannatyne – Graphic Novelist

Antonia Clark – Scottish Book Trust

Catriona Mackenzie - Scottish Government

Margaret Leitch – National Parent Forum of Scotland

Jen Harwood – Scottish Book Trust

Lucy Jukes – Chair

Lindsey Fraser- Fraser Ross Associates

Rosemary Ward- The Gaelic books Council

Helen Fairlee- Education Scotland

James McParland- St Maurice's High School

Amina Shah- Scottish book Trust

### Apologies:

Angie Crawford – Waterstones

Derek Brown – Association of Directors of Education

Katherine Wilkinson – Scottish Book Trust

James Robertson – Writer

Pamela Tulloch – Scottish Library and Information Council

Sue Ellis- Strathclyde University

Susan Morton – School Librarian at Inverclyde Academy

### 1. Minutes of the previous meeting

These were agreed.

### 2. Update from SBT

- Lindsey Duffy has been appointed at SBT to work across Schools and Attainment teams.
- Outreach update: seeing more pupils and parents in recent weeks, plus a number of outreach visits planned.
- Twitter competitions have been a success
- Reminder that 2<sup>nd</sup> round of Inspiring Classrooms funding is open for applications, members of group encouraged to share this with networks. Reminder has been shared with NPFS.
- Education Scotland reports that new communications being planned by for May which could link to secondary roll-out.
- Reading Ambassador from Gaelic Books Council visiting Staffin Primary, winner of last year's GME award.

### **3. Celebration Event**

- The format of last year's Celebration Event was received very positively by the First Minister.
- The exact date and location of the 2018 event will be confirmed as soon as possible.
- The Group recommends that the event takes place in a theatre, or similar space rather than a large corporate venue. This should be centrally located and close to transport links.
  - Actions:
    - SBT and SG to confirm date for the 2018 Celebration event.

### **4. Secondary School Pilots Update**

- SBT reported that an update meeting with teachers last week went very well.
- A key message from teachers is that building a reading culture can take longer to manifest in a secondary school due to the size and the spread of pupils and staff across different departments. Teachers prefer a long-term model with schools able to build on progress, rather than the yearly model currently in place for primary schools.
- SBT reported that Sgoil Lionacleit have not yet started their pilot project due to staffing changes. A Project Co-ordinator is now in place and SBT will be visiting the school to support them in starting their project. It will be useful to show how a school can approach the challenge halfway through the school year. The Gaelic Books Council is keen to support this.
- Following an update from Scottish Book Trust, the Group recommends that a long-term model is used, rather than a yearly model currently in place for the Primary level FMRC programme. In addition to this, the Group recommend that Scottish Book Trust attends the upcoming National Literacy Network meeting, with representatives from the pilot schools to discuss these plans.

- Actions:
  - SBT to visit Sqoil Lionacleit
  - SBT to attend the National Literacy Network meeting with representatives from the pilot schools

## **5. Young Advisory Group Update**

- The Chair of the Young Advisory Group updated the AG on their most recent meeting. They had a successful meeting, noting interest from the group of linking FMRC to Young Scot and work experience projects in school.
- The AG were updated on the use of FMRC in schools through the model for improvement using PEF funding. This has been successful so far and teachers are using this to change attitudes to reading and make it more easily available to parents and pupils.
- The AG agreed that information gained from the secondary school pilots should be rolled out to secondary schools.
  - **Actions:**
    - SBT to explore linking the Secondary roll out of the FMRC with Young Scot.

## **6. Proposed Challenges for Secondary Schools**

- The use of an Accreditation Scheme and Challenge prizes was discussed. It is acknowledged that schools have a preference for a scheme where they can build on progress at their own pace. However, accreditation schemes are not without difficulties and can allow a loss of momentum. The AG expressed some concern over the ability for a full accreditation scheme to be delivered within the time scale.
- The Group recommend that there are National and Regional Collaborative prizes. An Accreditation scheme is recommended, if the time scale allows.

## **7. Reading Communities**

- The Group discussed the Reading Communities model and its impact on libraries and the Primary School FMRC programme.
- It is acknowledged that the self-assessment aspect of the model fits in well with what schools are already doing.
- The Group recommend using the Reading Communities model as a means to support school libraries, librarians and public libraries.
- In addition to this, it is recommended that Secondary Schools currently partaking in the pilot, are supported to develop a Reading Communities model during 2018/19 to help demonstrate it to other schools. Alongside this, the FMRC at Primary schools is recommended to expand to include library and community groups via an Inspiration Award.
- Finally, the Group recommend that a 2 year plan for secondary schools is set out within a larger Recommendations paper.